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# New Bernal Journal

515 CORTLAND AVENUE · SAN FRANCISCO · CALIFORNIA · 94110

SERVING THE BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN FRANCISCO SINCE 1964

¡Sección Especial! NBJ en Español: Página 9

## 16TH ANNUAL FIESTA — A BERNAL TRADITION

Everybody loves a party, and for residents of Bernal Heights the annual Fiesta on the Hill street fair is always just that. Now in its sixteenth year, Fiesta has consistently united a wide variety of musicians, artists, merchants, multicultural food vendors, and community groups.

Occupying its traditional slot in the street fair calendar, this year's event will be held on Sunday October 17. If previous years are anything to go by, fairgoers will be able to enjoy San Francisco's traditional balmy fall weather while dancing, eating, and drinking, all on our very own Cortland Avenue.

This year's fair features the theme, **Bernal Forever: A Place with a Mind of its Own**, in recognition of the feelings of community and independent spirit of our neighborhood. To honor the theme, historic photos will be displayed in the front windows of the Good Life Grocery, while representatives of the SF Public Library will be on hand to show the full collection of photographs. Residents will be able to preview what the future holds when the library closes in 2005 for renovations.

Also new for Fiesta 2004, in the spirit of Halloween, will be a dramatic costume parade of local community members, starting at the West Stage at noon and finishing up at the East Stage at 12:30 p.m. Once at the East Stage, parade participants and fairgoers will receive a traditional Hawaiian hula blessing from Bernal resident **Pamela Schulte**. Any local groups interested in taking part in the parade should contact 206-2140 ext. 163.

What good is a party without music? Fiesta 2004 will feature its strongest ever line-up of entertainment, culminating as always with a tremendous salsa dance party. This year, former Bernal resident and nationally-recognized salsa musician **Anthony Blea** will bring his

Los Mocosos will be part of the fun at Fiesta 2004.



band **Anthony Blea y su Charanga** back to his former neighborhood. It's an event he's always wanted to play: "Since the first Fiesta on the Hill, I've always wanted to come back to share my music with the people of Bernal Heights," he says. Formerly known as Charanson, Anthony and his band will hit the West Stage at 4:45 p.m. Be sure to catch them!

But the fun doesn't stop there, because supporting Anthony will be three other national touring artists, each representing an important element of American musical culture.

For blues fans, it doesn't get much better than **Chris Cain**. After more than fifteen years' touring, the San Jose resident will make his Bernal debut at 12:45 p.m. on the West Stage. Chris' inventive fusion of jazz and blues tips its hat to the Chicago blues style and such legends as B.B. King and Buddy Guy, but it's his fluent guitar playing that makes him a favorite with blues purists everywhere he plays.

Former Bernal residents **Los Mocosos** will bring their unique blend of Latin-rock, hip-hop,

and salsa to the mid-afternoon crowd. Los Mocosos are proudly following in the footsteps of such San Francisco barrio-rock luminaries as Santana, War, and Malo.

Sandwiched neatly between Los Mocosos and Anthony Blea y su Charanga, **Red Meat** plan on keeping the energy level high with some of the best honky-tonk country you can find in the Western US. After ten years and numerous albums and awards, Red Meat continue to pay tribute to their influences such as Buck Owens and Hank Williams Sr. by playing traditional honky-tonk that should keep the crowd line-dancing the afternoon away.

As always, current Bernal residents play a big part in the entertainment at Fiesta on the Hill. Opening things up on the West Stage is **Whitey on the Moon**, an indie-rock band fronted by local boy Jamie Osborne. Clearly influenced by prototypical alternative bands such as the Velvet Underground, their sound is already gaining the attention of many of San Francisco's hippest indie-rock fans. Over on the East Stage, a diverse

line-up of entertainment paves the way for two other local bands. Following the hula blessing, the BHNC's own "senior tappers," led by seniors from the volunteer department, will give their first official public performance.

Crowd favorites **The Sun and Moon Ensemble** will then disperse throughout the crowd with their unique giant puppets, before **The Funny and Unique Derique** brings out his very special clown performance. Local drum ensemble **Taiko Ren** close out the lunchtime program.

Two bands will keep crowds at the east end of the fair entertained throughout the afternoon. First up, the **DC Blues Band** are well known to regulars at the Sunday night jam sessions at Skip's Bar. David Canipi's band proudly describe their music as "psychedelic blues" in the tradition of Jimi Hendrix and Cream. Following DC, local favorites the **Doni Harvey Quartet** will close out the program on the East Stage. Doni and his brother Regi have been playing straight-ahead jazz for as long as anyone in Bernal Heights can remember.

Should all this excitement leave you hungry, nearly a dozen food vendors will be on hand to fill that empty stomach. From Thai to El Salvadoran, from barbecue to lumpia, there's sure to be something for everyone.

Families play a major role in Fiesta on the Hill, and there will be plenty to keep even the youngest fairgoer occupied. Pumpkin decorating, face painting, pony rides, a petting zoo, and a talking police car are just some of the attractions aimed at children. And with a strict no-alcohol policy, the entire site will remain safe and fun for everybody the entire day.

The fair, which runs along Cortland Avenue from Bocana to Folsom, starts at 11 a.m. on Sunday, October 17, and closes at 6 p.m. Potential vendors or volunteers should call 206-2140 ext. 163 for more information.

## YES ON PROP. A — AFFORDABLE HOUSING, LIVABLE CITY

The presidential race is one reason to vote on November 2 — but it's definitely not the only one. Bernal residents well understand the value of acting locally to make a difference at home. The San Francisco affordable housing bond, Proposition A, aims to do just that. According to Matthew Franklin,

director of the Mayor's Office of Housing, Prop. A will create 3,350 affordable homes and apartments in our city. BHNC endorses the measure, and many residents of our fair neighborhood are actively involved in the Yes on A campaign — distributing campaign materials, rallying at City Hall, raising money, and more.

### A Is for Affordable Housing

Prop. A is a \$200 million general obligation bond backed by an unusually broad coalition. Declaring his support,

Mayor Gavin Newsom called it "a comprehensive bond that addresses the full spectrum of housing needs this city faces." His former opponent in the mayor's race, Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, noted that

"while the federal government is ruthlessly cutting affordable housing funds, we have an opportunity right here in San Francisco to assist our own people." All eleven current supervisors have endorsed the bond. Organizational

endorsements are also rolling in — from our own Bernal Heights Democratic Club to the Tenants Union to the San Francisco Labor Council to the Chamber of Commerce.

### Proposition A Creates Housing for Renters, Homebuyers, and the Homeless

There are several types of affordable housing funded by Prop. A:

**Supportive housing with on-site services** — \$90 million of the bond — offers people living on the streets a way out of homelessness. "Having affordable housing has helped me get off the streets, and get my life on track," says Ana B. Gutierrez, who lives in a South of Market affordable housing development. Hoping to help others benefit as she did, Gutierrez is now an active member of the Yes on A campaign.



Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center's clients and staff turned out in force to say YES! to Prop. A at the rally at City Hall on September 21.

continued on page 3

## The New Bernal Journal

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The New Bernal Journal  
is a neighborhood newspaper  
sponsored by the  
Bernal Heights  
Neighborhood Center.  
It is dedicated to providing the  
people of Bernal Heights with their  
community's news, ideas, issues,  
and events which support the  
center's mission:

To preserve and enhance the ethnic,  
cultural, and economic diversity and  
well-being of the Bernal Heights com-  
munity. We work to build a strong  
community for all, with a focus on  
the needs of low- and moderate-  
income people. We do this by  
providing services to support and  
increase opportunities for seniors,  
youth, and others most at-risk; by  
preserving and expanding access to  
affordable housing; and by building  
the neighborhood's power and  
capacity to achieve these goals. We  
commit to being a provider of essen-  
tial services, a builder of community,  
and a force for organizing  
neighborhood change.

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Please make all computer disk  
submissions in PC format, or e-mail  
them to nbj@bhnc.org



## HILLWIDE GARAGE SALE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thanks to the Bernal  
Heights Community  
for participating in the 11th  
Annual Hillwide Garage  
Sale on Saturday, August  
14. This was our most suc-  
cessful event yet, with near-  
ly \$5,000 raised to support  
the work of the Senior  
Services Department.

Special Appreciation goes to:

The 158 participating Official  
Registered Garage Sale Sites  
(many of which pledged  
additional funds  
to the center post-sale)

13 supporting Bernal Heights  
Merchants

The Hillwide Shoppers  
Volunteer Coordinator, Monica  
Wynn

The more than thirty senior vol-  
unteers who worked tirelessly  
to make the day a success.



## BERNAL HEIGHTS' STREET FAIR

# FIESTA ON THE HILL

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## SUPPORT THE BHNC: BUY FIESTA RAFFLE TICKETS AND WIN FABULOUS PRIZES!

**Grand Prize:** Round-Trip Airfare for Two to Washington, DC! Donor: JetBlue Airways

**Taste of Bernal:** Eight Nights of Dining at the best of our neighborhood eateries  
Donors: Blue Plate, The Deli Pub, Jasmine Tea House, Liberty Cafe, Little Nepal,  
Lotus Garden, Palatino's Restaurant, and Valentina's Ristorante

**Home Entertainment Package:** \$250 Electronics Gift Certificate, plus 20 Movie Rentals  
Donors: 4 Star Video and Frank and Christine Harris

**Night in the City:** Lodging for two at the Crowne Plaza at Union Square,  
dinner for two at the Stinking Rose Restaurant in North Beach, and breakfast for two  
at the Girasole Restaurant at the Crowne Plaza.  
Donors: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Stinking Rose Restaurant, and the Girasole Restaurant

**Day of Pampering:** "Treat yourself special" with gift certificates for a special lunch,  
a manicure & pedicure, complete makeover, and a massage or acupuncture session.  
Donors: Palatino's Restaurant, Tom's on Cortland, Carolyn Cohen CMT, and Cutting Edge Hair Salon

**Day tour to Napa Valley:** Tickets for two on the Napa Valley Wine Train and passes to the  
Copia Center for Wine, Food and the Arts.  
Donors: Napa Valley Wine Train, Copia Center

All proceeds benefit BHNC's Senior, Youth, Housing, Economic Development  
& Organizing Services.

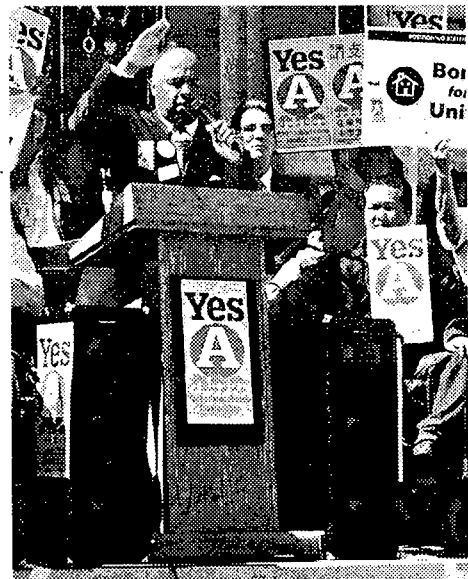
**Suggested Donation:** \$2 per ticket, or 6 for \$10. Stop by the BHNC to purchase tickets or call  
206-2140 ex. 100. Tickets will also be available at Fiesta. Drawing will be held at Fiesta.  
Winner must show ID to claim prize. Need not be present to win.

# HOUSING NEWS

## YES on Prop. A

continued from page 1

**Affordable rental housing for low-income families and seniors** makes up \$60 million of the bond. The crying need for such reasonably priced apartments



Reverend Calvin Jones rallies the crowd.

was confirmed in August, when BHNC and Mission Housing received 1,600 applications for 37 senior apartments at Mission and Geneva that will open in early 2005. Those apartments, like thousands of others, were awarded funds from San Francisco's previous affordable housing bond, passed by voters in 1996. But the 1996 dollars, which help keep our city diverse, have run out — thus the campaign to pass Prop. A.

### First-time homebuyer assistance

\$50 million will help moderate-income people who live and work in San Francisco to buy their own homes here. This will be split equally between down-payment assistance and new, permanently affordable for-sale homes. It's getting strong support from people like San Francisco paramedic Jon Meade, who noted that "it's important that more nurses, firefighters, and emergency personnel live in the city we serve, [but] only one in ten San Franciscans can afford to buy the average home." The homebuyer programs in Prop. A will help families like Meade's who might otherwise leave San Francisco for more affordable areas.

### You Can Help Solve the Affordable Housing Crisis

The Yes on A campaign is in full swing as November 2 nears, and there are lots of ways to get involved. Supporters can distribute literature; staff information tables; post Yes on A signs in the window of homes, cars, and workplaces; donate money; talk to friends and co-workers; and more. The most important thing you can do is to vote yes on A, and tell your friends to do the same. This measure needs a 2/3 vote to pass, so each and every yes vote is vitally important. ■

Visit the campaign Web site — [www.yespropa.org](http://www.yespropa.org) — or more information, or contact Shannon Dodge at 206-2140 x147 or [sdodge@bhnc.org](mailto:sdodge@bhnc.org).

## MISSION ST. PLANNING FORGES AHEAD

### Community workshop to help improve neighborhood

Mission Street between Chavez and Randall Streets, a living, breathing city neighborhood, is always changing. Recent months have seen new paint here and there, residential construction under way, and new businesses moving in as others close. Likewise, the community planning for this stretch of Mission Street, under way since early 2003, is evolving too.

The most recent workshop in September saw participants looking at the nitty-gritty details of the NC-3 Neighborhood Commercial Zoning that covers the Mission corridor. Comparisons of what exists with what could be proved useful. Architect Lisa Gelfand, a consultant to the planning process, showed what it would look like if new buildings were allowed a height increase of five feet while keeping to four stories at most. More spacious-feeling stores and apartments are the result — with more natural light, too. Pedestrians strolling along sidewalks have a more pleasant experience when there are transparent, open storefronts on sidewalks uninterrupted by curb cuts, Lisa noted.

To further consider issues like this, community members are now forming action committees, one for Zoning and Housing and another for Streetscape and Transportation. The first meetings will be held in early October, so it's certainly not too late to get on board (see below for contact info). These committees plan to advocate for implementation of the Draft Community Plan that's being developed, once it's finalized.

Please join us, and help preserve and improve Mission Street from Chavez to Randall. The next Community Workshop will be held on Thursday, October 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Coleridge Park Homes, 190 Coleridge (at Virginia). Refreshments, childcare, and Spanish translation are provided, and all residents are welcome. The workshop's focus will be on community benefit districts — a way that groups of small businesspeople and residents can come together to fund improved neighborhood services.

To be added to the mailing list, or for more information, please contact project manager Shannon Dodge at BHNC, 206-2140 ext. 147 or [sdodge@bhnc.org](mailto:sdodge@bhnc.org). You can also view the notes and past presentations and download the Draft Community Plan at [www.bhnc.org](http://www.bhnc.org) — follow the links from the housing page. ■

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To contact me:

Telephone (415) 338-0155  
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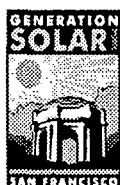
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## The Senior Volunteer Program

Twelve senior citizens sat in the middle of a large room on dented folding chairs. They were passing around a pink-neon foam ball not quite the size of a basketball. The small woman

BY  
DAVE  
CLARK

with a long nose and a sunshine smile passed the ball to the Filipino man with gray hair and a Giants cap. He passed it on to the black lady with a fresh perm and a cultured-pearl earring. The ball kept silently flowing around the circle. These people weren't practicing to try out for the Harlem Globe Trotters. They were enjoying friendship.

The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center offers all kinds of activities for seniors. Without the Senior Volunteer Program, they would have none.

The program works in two arenas:

### The Active Service Program (ASP)

Monday through Friday, a hot nutritional meal is served at the center for active local seniors, giving them a chance to come together and chew the fat, and chew the fat. Twice a month, a brimming grocery bag is handed out to those who can get to the center, or delivered to those who can't. Yuppies have nothing over these seniors. They have their own exercise plans, dance classes, and attitude. They have discussion groups where an elderly lady can express her opinion without being locked in a closet by her son. Not a holiday or event passes without a big party: There are fishing trips and gambling trips, days at the movies, and days anyone can get their blood pressure checked even if the movie wasn't scary ... or someone won a couple grand in Reno.

### The Neighborhood Elders Support Team (NEST)

The Senior Volunteer Program also takes care of homebound seniors. Those with physical or mental disabilities who just can't come to bingo, open a jar of pickles, navigate a cab to a doctor's appointment, call a contractor to fix the screen door ... or even afford it. People who can't remember to take either the yellow or green pill in the morning. Wouldn't it be nice for someone to come over to a lonely and frail lady's house, make a pitcher of lemonade, then sit down and drink it with her? The Senior Volunteer Program makes sure someone does.

Now, a program like this doesn't spring up overnight. "We have a very sophisticated operation," says Karen Garrison, director of



Volunteers assemble food bags for distribution to Bernal seniors.

Senior Services. "It has grown slowly out of the neighborhood. It makes sure seniors have something to do, whether they're active or frail." Three out of seven of Karen's staff speak Spanish, one speaks Chinese, and one can play a mean game of mah-jong speaking in Tagalog. They're ready to take on the world.

And they do. They throw in everything, including an occasional kitchen sink. The program has cut its office space in half to facilitate a thrift store in front. Gifts on the Hill sells literally everything of value anyone will donate -- and raises much-needed funds.

The program is like a corporation that's got it right. Three case managers and a social worker decide what each senior in the program needs for a better life. Then Suzanne Collins, the volunteer coordinator, delivers with her army. "A lot of people can be alone nowadays," she says. "They live far away from family. But people don't have to do without." Suzanne has a charming knack. She even has volunteers who mop floors.

Roland Soriano, the senior program coordinator, handles the logistics of the program. He makes sure each NEST is secure. Lunch is always ready for the active. That everybody is on the bus to Reno, that nobody lets a salmon pull him into the ocean, and that no one is sitting in a corner by himself or herself. Whew.

These good vibes have already spread to the Excelsior, and now onto Crocker Amazon and the Mission. More than sixty volunteers helped more than five hundred active seniors kick up their heels at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center last year. More than fifty NEST volunteers gave the infirm a reason to answer the door. "Neighbors helping neighbors," they like to say. And the pink neon ball keeps revolving around the circle of friends at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. ■

The author is a volunteer with the Senior Program.



**Come and join us for a  
Howling Bernal Halloween Party!**

**Date: Friday, October 29  
Place: The BHNC, 515 Cortland Avenue**

**10:45 a.m. Bean Bag Toss, Cake Walk,  
Costume Contest, Raffle, Bobbing for Apples,  
Scream Contest, and more ...**

**12:00 noon: Lunch**

**1:00 p.m. Halloween Movie  
(we'll throw in the popcorn)**

**Admission: \$5.00 Before Oct. 27,  
\$7.00 after...(Kids Free!)**

**We encourage Kids (parents too) and Seniors  
to attend in costume.**

# SENIOR SERVICES

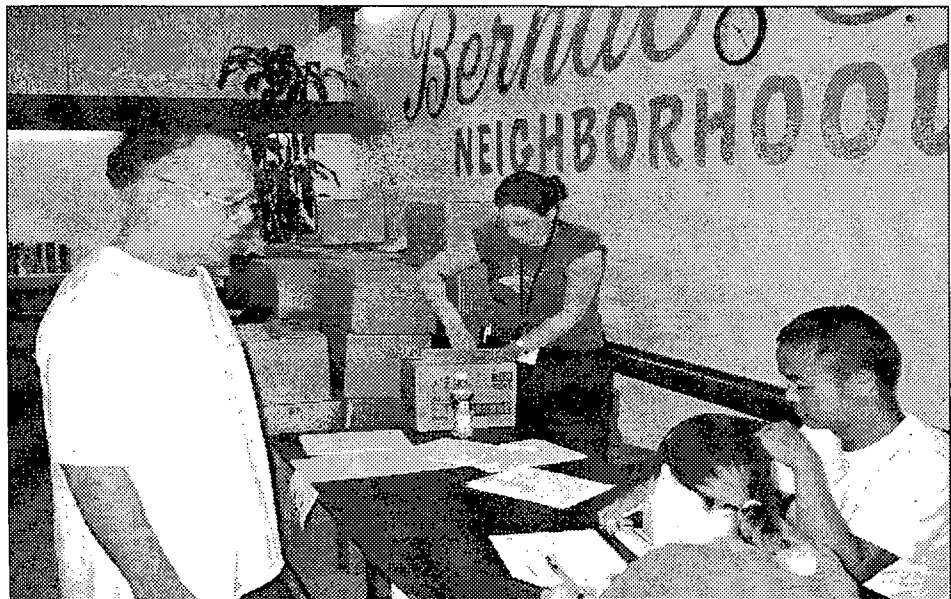
## THE FOOD BOX IS BACK!

In October 2003, local nonprofit the Economic Opportunity Council (EOC) was mandated by the state to radically change the way it distributes food to low-income seniors in San Francisco because of mismanagement of this program. As a result, the BHNC and 88 other community sites could no longer distribute supplemental food boxes to their low-income seniors across the city. The EOC then adopted a plan where only fourteen sites were used as distribution points, creating a huge hardship for seniors who had to take multiple buses or arrange rides to pick up their 35-to-

BY  
KAREN  
GARRISON

awarded the contract by the State Department of Education and the City of San Francisco. The SF Food Bank began distribution in August. As part of the restoration process, the BHNC was the very first community site to be restored in San Francisco. The first food-box distribution was held on Tuesday, September 7, with nearly a hundred low-income Bernal seniors receiving boxes at the center and at home (for homebound seniors) via senior volunteers.

Food-box distribution will take place the first Tuesday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m. Special thanks go to the San Francisco Food Bank for restoring our site and to Senior staffers Roland Soriano and Suzanne Collins for organizing the program



ROLAND SORIANO

40-pound food boxes.

Prior to October, more than 11,000 low-income seniors received food boxes per month; under the new system, an average of only 6,500 received boxes. The BHNC began to organize our seniors, and eventually Senior Action Network (SAN) took up the cause to help us restore the program to the BHNC and other sites. They and other community providers were appointed to a work group comprising providers, the EOC, and members of the city controller's office to work out a sensible solution.

In the end, the EOC withdrew its contract and the San Francisco Food Bank was

Seniors are once again able to collect food boxes from the BHNC.

here at the center. If you are interested in receiving the food box here, just pick up an application from any Senior Program staff member.

As a special bonus, we were able to include more than twenty seniors from Coleridge Park Homes, where the majority of those seniors are homebound. Other sites will soon be restored. The restoration of our site is a triumphant tribute to the efforts of the BHNC seniors and other provider organizations that the Food Box Program is on its way to serving more seniors in their own communities. ■

## INGLESIDE POLICE NEWS

### COMMUNICATION

One of the most important components of police work is communication. It is paramount that police officers communicate effectively with the people they serve, that they are not isolated from those people who pay their salaries, and that they listen when they communicate.

BY  
CAPTAIN  
PAUL  
CHIGNELL

The values that the leadership of the San Francisco Police Department embrace and try to instill into rank-and-file police officers is that we need to talk to residents, hear their concerns, and act on those concerns. That communication takes place on the foot beat, in community meetings, at events, and when we respond to calls for service or initiate enforcement.

We also need to have other ways for folks to reach us other than calling on the phone in an emergency, leaving a voice message on a tip line, or sending a note in the mail. Both Bayview and Ingleside stations have begun an daily e-mail message to residents who desire to hear what is happening from the police perspective. Recently Chief Heather Fong has mandated that the other eight police stations get

COURTESY PAUL CHIGNELL



e-mail capability for their communities due to the enthusiastic reception of the Bayview and Ingleside e-mails.

At Ingleside, we don't have fancy graphics, but we do give information on major crimes that have occurred, arrests officers have made, the status of stolen and recovered vehicles, and some information on community events.

Currently we have more than three hundred community members receiving the e-mails, and encourage anyone who wishes to be on the list to contact me at Paul\_Chignell@ci.sf.ca.us. ■

**Capt. Chignell is the Commanding Officer at Ingleside Police Station.**

# Back to the Picture

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# YOUTH SERVICES

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

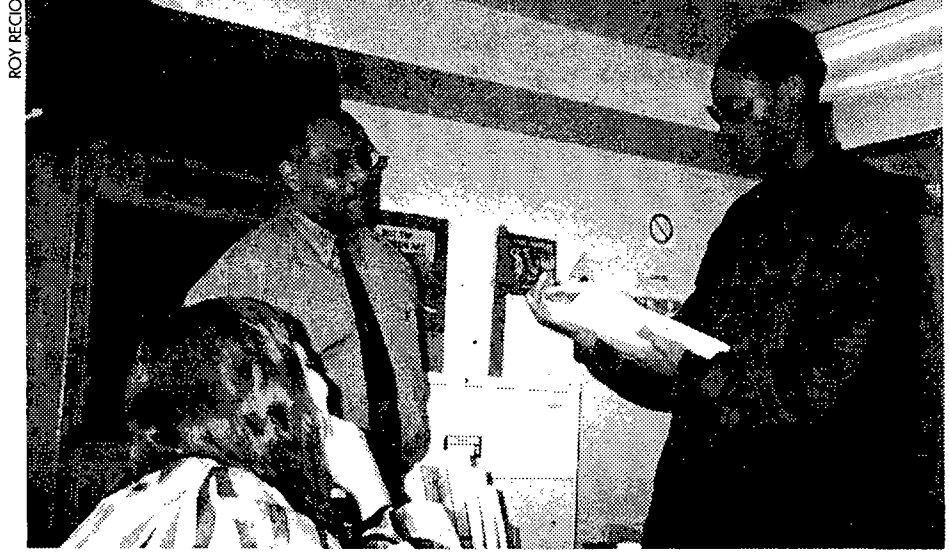
Summer at the Greater Mission Consortium (GMC) was a huge success! The Youth Drop-In Center was packed with fresh faces, as well as the welcome presence of familiar youth returning for a fun-filled summer. We kicked off the summer in June with graduation parties and our second annual Summer Leadership Training Institute, a two-week conference that trains youth on topics like team building, goal setting, public speaking, and conflict mediation. June culminated in a huge BBQ at Blackberry Farms, with more than 120 youth and adults attending from many of our collaborative partners, including Visitation Valley Beacon Centers, CLAER, and Brothers Against Guns.

July and August at the GMC featured a number of weekly programs such as Tears of a Rose, our young women's support group; United Playaz (UP), a violence prevention and leadership development group; and Waterfront Teens, an environmental education program. We also took a number of field trips to parks, neighborhood swimming pools, and to Great America amusement park. In August, we ended the summer with a BBQ at Golden Gate Park sponsored by UP and a dance at BHNC sponsored by Tears of a Rose. All in all, it was a fun, safe, exciting summer!

Now the GMC is gearing up for the school year, restarting our programs, outreaching to new youth, and planning fun events for the fall season. Weekly programs for this fall include:

**Tears of a Rose** every Monday from 4 to 6 p.m.

**Healthy Eating and Living** every Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. (beginning October 5)



**Career Compass** on Mondays and Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. (contact Daisy at 392-7600 ext. 318 for exact dates and locations, or to register)

**Waterfront Teens** every Thursday and Friday from 4 to 6 p.m.

**Homework Hour** every day from 3 to 4 p.m. at the GMC or with tutoring available at the Excelsior Youth Center, 163 London Street.

**United Playaz** will meet weekly during the school year at Balboa High School. For more info on UP, contact Rudy Corpuz at 206-2140 ext. 139.

**Job Readiness Workshops** provided by Enterprise for High School Students will be available at the GMC once a month. For dates and times or to register, contact Jason at 392-7600 ext. 319.

Youth aged eleven to eighteen are also welcome to drop by after school for open recreation, to use our computer lab, or to access additional services such as legal advice provided by La Raza Centro Legal, or after-school recreation and academic support provided by

Precita Valley Community Center or the Mission YMCA.

Upcoming fall events at the GMC include the **Excelsior Festival** on October 10 at the intersection of Mission Street and Ocean Avenue, the **Halloween Dance** at BHNC, and the **Thanksgiving Community Potluck**. This year the GMC will also assist in planning and sponsoring a District 11 Supervisor's Candidate Forum that focuses on children, youth, and family issues.

For more information on programs or events, contact Kristen at 206-2140 ext. 169 or Zebunissa at 334-9919 ext. 105.

## Summer Job Fair a Big Hit

Each year, the BHNC organizes two Job Fairs in an effort to assist youth and young adults in finding employment. On August 12, in the center's continuing efforts to provide resources to the Alemany residents of our

## Alemany youth talks to a prospective employer at the Job Fair.

neighborhood, we held a fair to address employment and training needs within the community. The fair, held at the Alemany Community Room, was the first of its kind to be offered off-site from the BHNC.

Organized by Alemany resident Lupe Mendez and BHNC staffers Anna Ulbrich and Roy Recio, the fair brought out quite a crowd. Five employers looking for qualified candidates met with more than a hundred residents to match job vacancies with employee skills and interests. Among the agencies attending the job fair were the San Francisco International Airport, the South of Market Employment Center, Larkin Street Youth Services, LYRIC, and Job Corps.

For nineteen-year-old Alemany resident Lateefah Cavit-Almuflihi, the experience proved to be a positive one, as she is currently enrolled in the hiring process for the San Francisco International Airport. "I feel like I'm becoming an asset to the community by engaging in the workforce," she said. "It's exciting! Hopefully in the end I'll be successful."

Alemany resident Martigus Hart, 25, prepared his résumé, which featured his talents in the cooking field. Although he was not matched with a job that day, he later met with BHNC job developer Roy Recio and is now enrolled as a pastry chef in the Baking Project's training program.

For Bernal Heights residents seeking employment assistance, feel free to call Job Developer Roy Recio at 415-206-2140 ext. 146.



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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## FUTBOL FOREVER!

On Wednesday, September 8, around 4:30 p.m., if you were traveling down Mission Street between Valencia and 29th you would have observed considerable

BY  
ANNA  
ULBRICH

commotion among the scores of men queuing to get inside El Paisa restaurant. That's because El Paisa was one of only three locations in San Francisco transmitting the Central American eliminators (playoffs) for the 2006 World Cup in Germany. More than 150 fútbol aficionados from all over the Bay Area came to watch this critical match between Honduras and Guatemala.

For about \$2,000, a bar or restaurant can purchase the satellite signal from a company that specializes in worldwide fútbol events, and then charge patrons a cover for entrance. While the majority of fans were natives of Honduras since the venue hosting the match is Honduran, supporters from both countries were in attendance. Every goal was accompanied by colossal uproar. Antonio Umazor, a waiter at El Paisa, says these events are like a party. Everyone present is in good spirits and a tone of respect permeates as spectators root for their team. Oh, and for those of you who are curious, the game ended in a 2-2 tie ...

El Paisa will be showing upcoming games, so be sure to ask about dates and attend one of these if you want an authentic Latin-American experience right here on Mission Street! ■

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Home Depot development on Bayshore Boulevard at the foot of Cortland Avenue had been postponed. Green explained that the Atlanta-based home improvement retail giant's first draft of the Comments and Responses, the last piece of the EIR awaiting completion, was seriously deficient and there was no indication when a revised draft would be forthcoming.

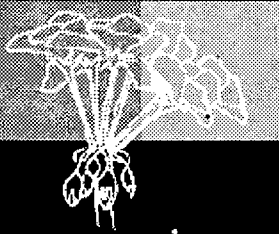
Director Green went on to say that Home Depot had not addressed what he described as "many serious issues" raised by the Planning Department in the EIR, and repeated his opinion that their responses contained serious deficiencies. Director Green also mentioned that the commission has requested that the Final EIR be published at least one month prior to a certification hearing, which would project a possible date for the hearing into November at the earliest.

Those familiar with the continuing Home Depot saga will recall similar delays in documentation and deadlines last year in the Draft EIR process. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which governs the EIR process, has timelines built in to ensure that governing bodies can't stall projects, but says very little about timelines for project sponsors. Sue Hestor, veteran San Francisco land-use attorney, told the New Bernal Journal that the Home Depot EIR process is the longest she can remember for a project of its kind. ■

## HOME DEPOT HEARING POSTPONED ... AGAIN

Although Home Depot has slapped a vinyl sign high on a wall of the old Goodman Lumber building (on which they hold a lease option) declaring "Home Depot - YES!" the project has yet to achieve permit approval, and is bogged down in delays as the Big Box developer tries to finagle its 300K+-square-foot camel through the needle's eye of environmental review.

Department director Gerald Green announced in his September 2 director's report that the September 23 Planning Commission hearing on the Final




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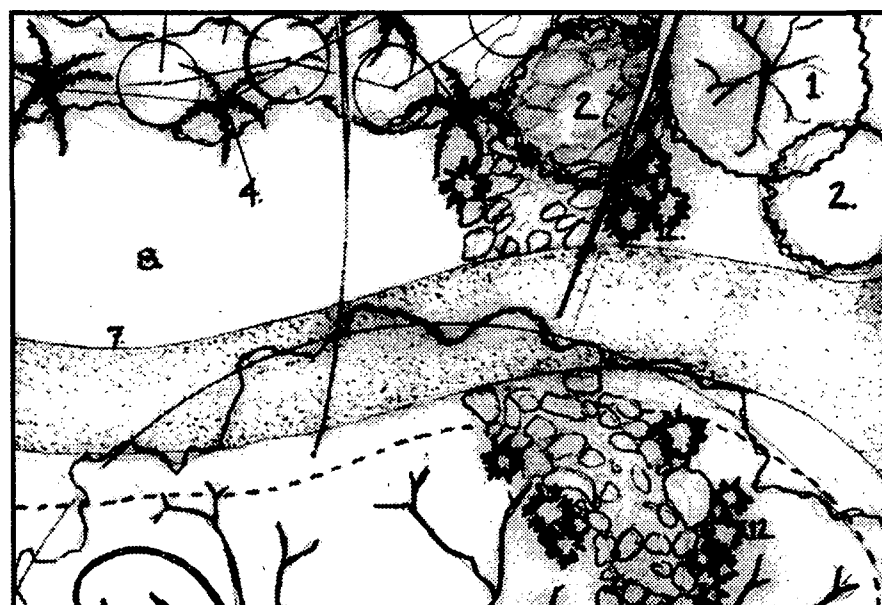


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Annual percentage yield (APY) effective September 21, 2004. There is a minimum balance requirement of \$10,000 to obtain the 1.40% APY and \$25,000 to obtain the 1.68% APY for the Quantum Savings Account. There is a minimum balance requirement of \$5,000 to obtain the stated APY for the 2-Year CD. Rates are subject to change without notice. Early withdrawal penalties may be imposed. Fees may reduce earnings on the account. FDIC insured to applicable limits. For more information, request the Account Disclosures and Schedule of Fees and Charges.

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# EXCELSIOR NEWS

## The Excelsior Festival returns for a second year of local music, artists, and family fun.

If you read guidebooks about our city, you would think that San Francisco only consisted of everything north of Cesar Chavez. Rarely mentioned is one of San Francisco's hidden gems, the Excelsior, one of the city's most diverse neighborhoods. The second Excelsior Festival, a free neighborhood street fair, strives to bring attention to a place rich with culture and excitement that rarely receives the attention it deserves.

Music, international food, activities for kids, and local arts and crafts vendors unite to highlight the many contributions of the numerous communities that live and work together in the Excelsior.

Reflecting the Excelsior's cultural diversity, this year's festival will feature an eclectic lineup of live music with artists such as jazz vocalist **Cecilia Long**; rockers **The Powers That Be**; R & B group **Xecutive Sweet**; hip-hop, rap, and spoken word by a variety of neighborhood artists (**Kiwi**, **Lady Wonders**, **Gambizi and the Union**, and **Mynt Rock**), Afro-Latin jazz musicians **OSHE**; and Filipino acoustic folk/rock band **Diskarte Namin** will all be performing at this year's multicultural event.

Festival headliners highlight Cuban, Afro-Latin jazz, and salsa music through a variety of Bay Area talent. **Anthony Blea y Su Charanga** (formerly **Charanson**) combine the traditional Cuban *charanga* sound (violin, flute) with a driving horn section for a fresh sound sure to get any crowd moving. Blea, a formally trained violinist, grew up in Bernal Heights, but called the Excelsior his home for a time as he was growing up.

Closing the show is **Palenque**, energizing listeners with an uplifting style of Cuban music called *son montuno*, made popular by artists such as the Buena Vista Social Club and **Compay Segundo**. The blend of enticing melodies, a warm family vibe, and irresistible Afro-Cuban rhythms raises spirits and inspires audiences to move their feet and elevate their hearts. In all, this year's festival performers reflect the assorted ethnic and cultural mix of this community.

The Excelsior Festival was created by and organized from the collective efforts



Palenque will close the festival with their warm Afro-Cuban rhythms.



Anthony Blea y Su Charanga headline the Excelsior Festival on October 10.

of residents, merchants, community organizations, and the Office of Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval. Partners Excelsior Action Group (EAG), and Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (BHNC) produce the festival as part of the effort to revitalize the Excelsior's Mission Street commercial district.

Through the Excelsior Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (ENCoRe) project, EAG and BHNC work together to promote the Excelsior, attract new businesses and investment in the community, and address a variety of issues critical to the community such as long-term vacancies, blight, and cleanliness. The Excelsior Festival is the signature event of several community development activities in the district coordinated through ENCoRe.

Neighborhood merchant Alejandrina Martinez said, "I am excited about the festival because people are going to be exposed to what we have in this neighborhood. Our neighborhood is very unique - we have all kinds of people here. There are so many great people, restaurants, and businesses in this neighborhood. The festival is definitely something fun that will bring people and this community together."

The Festival will be held Sunday, October 10 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. in the "Persia Triangle" (Persia Avenue between Ocean and Mission Street). For more information or to volunteer, contact ENCoRe at 585-0110.

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## DIEZYSEXTA FIESTA ANUAL – UNA TRADICIÓN DE BERNAL

El festival empieza a las 11:00 a.m. el domingo, 17 de octubre, y termina a las 6:00 p.m. Tendrá lugar en la avenida Cortland entre Bocana y Folsom. Los vendedores y voluntarios potenciales pueden llamar al 206-2140 ext. 163 para más información.



City Hall, Room 48  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

[illegible]

# NEW BERNAL JOURNAL EN ESPAÑOL

## ¡LA CAJA DE COMIDA HA VUELTO!

En octubre del 2003, el estado mando al Concilio Para la Oportunidad Económica (EOC), una organización sin fines de lucro, cambiar radicalmente la manera en que distribuye comida a los ancianos de bajos ingresos en San Francisco, debido a la mala gestión del programa. Esa decisión tuvo como resultado hacer que el BHNC y 88 otros locales comunitarios por todo San Francisco no pudieran distribuir cajas de comida a sus clientes ancianos de bajos ingresos. El EOC entonces adoptó un plan según el cual sólo quedaron 14 puntos de distribución. Esto creó inmensas dificultades para los ancianos.

Antes de octubre, más de 11,000 ancianos por más recibían cajas de comida, a diferencia de los aproximadamente 6,500 que las recibían bajo el nuevo sistema. El BHNC empezó a movilizar a sus clientes ancianos y eventualmente la Red de Acción para los Ancianos (Senior Action Network, SAN) se involucró en la lucha para revender que se restaurara el programa de cajas de comida en el BHNC y en otros lugares. El BHNC, SAN y varios otros proveedores formaron un grupo de trabajo con el EOC y miembros de la fiscalía de la ciudad para buscar una solución y restaurar las cajas de comida en los lugares comunitarios.

Al final, el EOC perdio su contrato, lo cual fue entregado a la San Francisco Food Bank por parte del Departamento de educación del estado y de la ciudad de San Francisco. La SF Food Bank empezó la distribución en agosto y septiembre. Al reiniciar el programa, el BHNC fue la primera organización en recibir de nuevo las cajas en todo San Francisco. La primera dis-

tribución tuvo lugar el martes, 7 de septiembre, cuando casi cien personas ancianas de Bernal Heights llegaron a recibir sus cajas, en el centro comunitario mismo o en sus casas (gracias a la ayuda de voluntarios, para los ancianos que no tienen capacidad de movilidad).

La distribución de las cajas tendrá lugar el primer martes de cada mes de 10 a.m. a mediodía y de 1 p.m. a 3 p.m. Agradecemos de manera muy especial a la San Francisco Food Bank para restaurar nuestro programa y a los empleados del Departamento para las personas ancianas, Rolan Soriano y Suzanne Collins, por organizar el programa aquí en el centro.

Si Usted está interesado/a en recibir una caja de comida aquí en el BHNC, puede pedir un formulario a cualquier empleado del departamento. Conseguimos también que se incluyan a 20 ancianos de Coleridge Park Homes en nuestra lista de distribución, ya que la mayoría de los que viven allí son ancianos sin capacidad de movilidad. A medida que pase el tiempo, se restaurarán a otros lugares en la ciudad. La restauración del programa en nuestro local es un triunfo para los ancianos y las organizaciones proveedoras que se involucraron en la lucha, haciendo que el programa de Cajas de comida beneficiara a más personas ancianas en sus comunidades.

### EL FESTIVAL DEL EXCELSIOR

Al leer los guías acerca de nuestra ciudad, alguien podría pensar que San Francisco sólo es lo que hay al norte de la calle Cesar Chavez. Raramente se menciona El Excelsior, uno de los barrios más culturalmente diversos de San Francisco y uno de sus tesoros escondidos. El segundo Festival del Excelsior, un festival callejero gratis, fue creado para traer aten-

ción a un lugar rico en cultura y movimiento que raramente recibe la atención que se merece.

Esta diversidad cultural estará reflejada en la panoplia de grupos musicales que tocarán en vivo, como la cantante de jazz **Cécilia Long**; los roqueros **The Powers That Be**, el grupo de R&B **Xecutive Sweet**, representaciones de hip hop, rap, y poesía en vivo por varios artistas locales (**Kiwi**, **Lady Wonders**, **Gambizi and the Union**, and **Mynt Rock**), el grupo de jazz afro-latino **OSHE**, y el grupo acústico folk/rock filipino **Diskarte Namin**.

Los grupos principales son artistas de la Bahía que tocarán música cubana, jazz afro-latino y salsa. El grupo **Anthony Blea y Su Charanga** combina los elementos de la música cubana tradicional (el violín y la flauta) con la trompa para crear un sonido original que mantendrá a todo el mundo bailando. Don Blea, quien hizo su aprendizaje en violín, se crió en Bernal Heights, pero también vivió un tiempo en el Excelsior.

Por último tendremos al grupo **Palenque**, quien les dará mucha energía con su estilo de música cubana llamado son montuno. La mezcla de melodías seductoras, los irresistibles ritmos afro-cubanos y el divertimento para toda la familia eleva los espíritus y inspira al público, hace mover los pies y subir los latidos de corazón. Juntos, los músicos este año reflejan la diversidad étnica y cultural de esta comunidad.

El Festival del Excelsior fue creado y organizado gracias al esfuerzo colectivo de algunos residentes, comerciantes, organizaciones comunitarias, y la Oficina del Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval. El Excelsior Action Group (EAG) y el Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (BHNC) son partners que producen el Festival, lo cual forma parte del esfuerzo para revitalizar el distrito comercial de la calle Mission en el Excelsior. Por medio del proyecto de Revitalización Comercial del Vecindario del Excelsior (ENCoRe), el EAG y el BHNC trabajan juntos para promover el Excelsior, atraer nuevos negocios e inversión a la comunidad y tomar acción sobre una variedad de asuntos importantes para la comunidad, como llenar los locales vacíos y mejorar la apariencia y la limpieza del barrio. El Festival del Excelsior es un evento clave y el resultado de diversas actividades de desarrollo comunitario organi-

zadas por medio de ENCoRe.

La comerciante local Alejandrina Martinez dijo: "Me alegro mucho de que llegue el festival para que la gente pueda ver todo lo que tenemos en este barrio. Nuestro vecindario es original. Tenemos a todo tipo de gente aquí. Hay buena gente así como buenos restaurantes y comercios. El festival es un evento divertido que reunirá a la gente de esta comunidad."

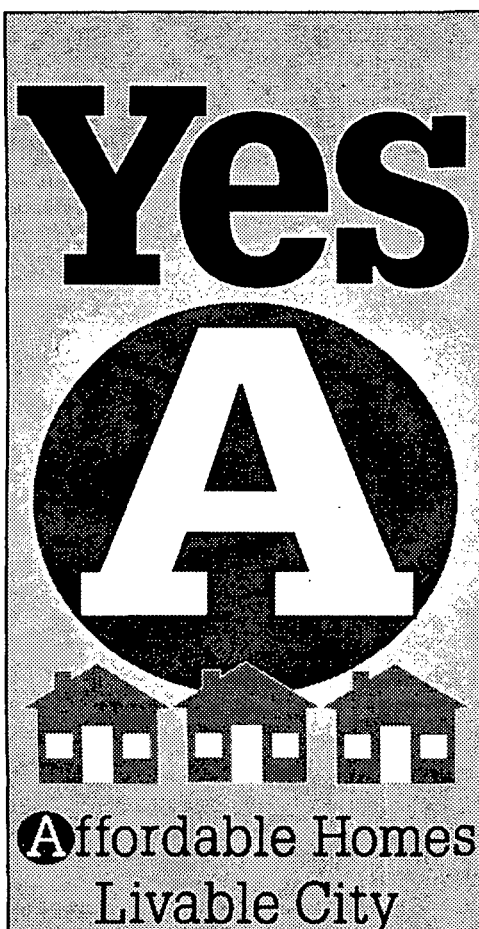
El Festival tendrá lugar el domingo, 10 de octubre de las 11:00 am-6:00 pm en el "Triángulo de Persia" (la avenida Persia entre Ocean y Mission). Para más información o para hacerse voluntario, llame al proyecto ENCoRe al 585-0110.

### EL FÚTBOL PARA SIEMPRE

El día miércoles, 8 de septiembre, cerca de las 4:30 PM, una persona que iba pasando por la calle Misión entre la Valencia y la calle 29 hubiera observado una gran conmoción en la cola de hombre que esperaban su turno para entrar en el restaurante El Paisa. La razón es que El Paisa es uno de sólo tres lugares en San Francisco donde se difundieron las eliminatorias centroamericanas para la Copa Mundial del 2006 en Alemania. Más de 150 aficionados del fútbol vinieron de toda la Área de la Bahía para ver este partido muy importante entre Honduras y Guatemala.

Por unos \$2000, un bar o restaurante puede comprar la señal satelital de una compañía especializada en eventos internacionales de fútbol, y después cobrar la entrada. Aunque la mayoría de los aficionados estuvieran de Honduras porque El Paisa es un restaurante hondureño, habían personas originarias de ambos países. Cada vez que se marcaba un gol, los espectadores pegaban unos grandes gritos. Antonio Umanzor, un camarero del Paisa, dice que estos eventos son como una fiesta. Todos los que están allí están de buen humor y existe un tono de respeto mientras cada persona apoya a su equipo. Oh, y para los que están curiosos, los equipos empataron 2-2...

El Paisa seguirá difundiendo las eliminatorias así que no olviden preguntarles las fechas y asistir a uno de estos partidos si quieren una auténtica experiencia latinoamericana aquí mismo en la calle Misión!



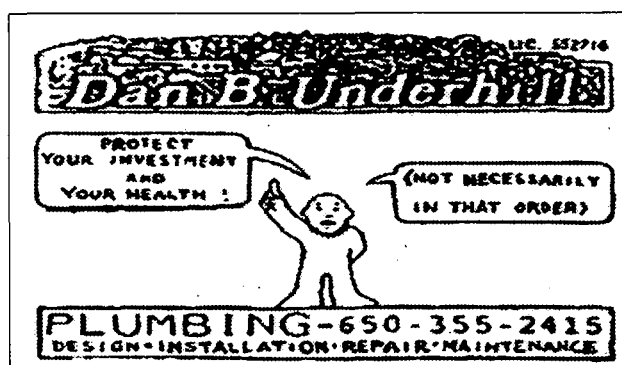
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# BERNAL SCHOOLS

## FRIENDS OF BERNAL SCHOOLS UPDATE

Happy New School Year! Hard to believe it's already more than a month since school started. Schools are busy, and Friends

BY  
AMY  
RISCH

of Bernal Schools are too. We were there for all three Movie Nights put on by Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema and would like to thank our generous donors Maggie Mudd, Muddy Waters, and Martha's, for providing us with hot drinks to sell. Thank you also to the hardy volunteers who came out and sold refreshments: Stefanie Eldred, Natasha LaVine, Amy Risch, Laura Parker, Kristen Daniel, Deena Zacharin, Anne Colpitts, Deb Caperton, and Andrea Baker.

You may have already seen the fund-raising letter and envelope enclosed in this issue of the NBJ. This marks the kick-off of our campaign to provide extra money to the four Bernal elementary schools. The principals at each school were asked, "What would you do with \$5,000?" and FoBS hopes to raise the money for them. This money will provide more books for the library at Junipero Serra; computers, software, and technology support for upper grades at Leonard Flynn; outdoor education equipment for Paul Revere; and support Mission Science Center classes and field trips at Fairmount. If there's no return envelope, please send your tax-deductible contribution to Friends of Bernal Schools, c/o Parents for Public Schools — SF, 9 Silliman St, Suite 6, San Francisco, CA 94134. The kids thank you!

While we're talking about helping schools, plan to help directly by attending our community workday at Junipero Serra on Saturday, November 6. We'll be installing shelves, hanging whiteboards, working in the library, doing gardening projects, and more. Work will start at 9:30 a.m. and finish in time for lunch at the school. Please come join us!

For more information about the workday or Friends of Bernal Schools, please call 648-4019 or e-mail fobs@muleteam.com

## PAUL REVERE

Fourth and fifth graders are preparing for a three-day overnight trip to Camp Arroyo in

BY  
LAURA E.  
PARKER

Livermore to study environmental science, including California ecology. Students will also work on team building and making crafts with reclaimed materials. They will have hands-on experiences studying Ohlone Indian culture and traditions. The trip is being funded by a generous grant from the Taylor Family Foundation, arranged by teacher Gina Rothman.

The second- and third-grade classes are beginning a ten-week residency with the SF Ballet. They will have class with a dancer and a musician each week. Last year three students were offered scholarships to continue studying ballet with the ballet at the end of the session.

Instrumental music is starting up, too. Mr. Bell has returned to Paul Revere and is signing up students for beginning and advanced flute, violin, and trumpet. All third graders will learn some music fundamentals playing the recorder.

We have three art and music teachers here two days a week. Ms. Donna, Mr. Steve, and Mr. Sid are teaching visual arts, poetry, and music, supporting the fourth and fifth graders in their academic learning.

The third grade will begin working on a Theatre Arts thirty-week residency with the Performing Arts Workshop, thanks to a grant from the Mayor's Department for Children, Youth, and Families. A literacy specialist will also support the project, designed to prevent truancy.

On-site teachers in the fourth and fifth grades will provide electives in drama, art, athletics, and computers on Fridays. Students will sample each class and then pick a class for each semester this year.

With so much going on, we have a date to show off our creative energy - save Thursday, December 9, at 12:45 p.m. for our Winter Art and Music Assembly!

## LEONARD FLYNN ELEMENTARY

LR Flynn Elementary has a lot of great things going on this year! Our two-way Spanish Immersion Program started this fall with two kindergarten classes. Flynn was just recognized, as part of Loco Bloco, for best Brazilian Dance at last May's Carnaval SF parade. We are also looking forward to several upcoming family events, including student performances at Fiesta Latina in October and a "Messy Science Night" in November.

If you have a child who will be beginning kindergarten in the fall, we hope that you will come by and get to know our school better. Flynn has several upcoming events that are open to the public. On October 5, we will be hosting, along with Parents for Public Schools, a forum to meet the candidates for School Board. We will also be holding an information night for families who are interested in Flynn for kindergarten on Monday, November 22, at 6:00 p.m. Please join us to learn more about Flynn Elementary and our Spanish immersion and general education programs. If you would like to visit during the school day, we offer tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m., and also by appointment. Please call Anne Colpitts at 695-5770 to schedule a time.

## JUNIPERO SERRA

The educational focus of our 2004-2005 school year continues to be literacy. In June, eleven of Junipero Serra's teachers attended five days of professional development. Teachers are now busy planning and sharing ideas for "frontloading" reading lessons and designing "interactive" writing and editing activities to teach children the connections between what we write and read.

Caring School Community is a program that J. Serra is excited to embrace. It helps each student feel connected to school by building a sense of caring and community. Each class is having meetings, in which the teacher and students sit in a circle to solve problems and discuss how they can make the class a place that feels caring and safe for everyone. In October, each student will have a "buddy" to develop a special relationship with an older or younger child.

The School Health Programs Department of SFUSD, together with SPARK of the San Diego State University Foundation, is providing professional development to teachers and after-school staff to reach physical education and nutrition curriculum goals. Included in the grant is sports equipment for both the day classes and the After School Success Club. Families are also benefiting from the family pack loan feature of the grant. Pedometers, jump ropes, exercise bands, and activity cards are among the many materials on loan in each family pack.

A new school year is a perfect time to start volunteering at J. Serra. As you walk around the beautifully refurbished Holly Park, look our way and be reminded that there is no greater feeling than that of a child thanking you for your gift of time. We are looking for volunteers to read to classes at monthly Read Aloud Days (first Wednesdays of each month). We are also looking to improve our After School Success Club's enrichment component. If you have special gifts such as music, art, drama, or language and can spare Friday afternoons from 2:45-4:15 p.m., we would love to hear from you. Call Sue Saunders or Lorena Tacuba at 695-5685 or just come by the school.

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# CORTLAND HAPPENINGS

## SPINNING YARNS

Paula Frazer would like all budding Bernal knitters and weavers to know that they can now get their yarn fix on Cortland Avenue. The Ellsworth Street resident recently opened Paula Frazer Handwoven in the store behind what was Fax This (which will soon be a children's clothing store).

Walk down a short alley to get to the cozy store and you'll see a rainbow of yarns packing the shelves, along with items for sale all handwoven by Paula. These include scarves, shawls, throws, hats, baby blankets, chokers, and handbags. Paula uses only natural fibers, reasoning that they feel better against the skin. She stocks yarns made from cotton, wool, cashmere, silk, alpaca, mohair, soy, and even bamboo (feel it and see how surprisingly soft it is). She also stocks all kinds of knitting supplies, from handcrafted needles (made from sustainable wood) to pompoms and tassels, as well as books and magazines on sewing and knitting crafts.

For those determined to start on a new hobby straightaway, Paula's is also the only store in San Francisco selling weaving table looms (prices start at around \$500). Kids wanting to get an early start will find tapestry kits and guides galore.

Paula learned her craft in Arkansas, where she grew up. At sixteen, she took up an apprenticeship under a weaver as part of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, which paid minimum wage to traditional craftspersons. Paula kept weaving after she moved to San Francisco and started her own wholesale business in 1998. She supplies a number of Bay Area boutiques with her handwoven items, including MAC in Hayes Valley and Dema in the Mission. You may also know her



Paula and some of her handwoven scarves and throws at her new store.

from her musical career, previously with the band Tarnation and currently as a solo singer-songwriter.

Paula hopes to offer classes in knitting and crochet, both basic and advanced — just drop by the store and ask. And if you want to make Gandalf's cloak or a woolly hat with kitten ears for your toddler, she's the person to help you.

**Paula Frazer Handwoven**  
324 Cortland Ave. 282-YARN.  
Wed.-Sat 12-5 p.m.  
[www.paulafraser.com](http://www.paulafraser.com)

## BERNAL YOGA LITERARY SERIES

The Bernal Yoga Literary Series continues on Saturday, October 16, by presenting six writers who will read from their own original work. Feature readers include poet Bruce Snider and fiction writer Stephanie Reents. Four other local authors will also share their work. A reception will follow the reading.

Bruce Snider is the author of *The Year We Studied Women*, winner of the 2003 Felix Pollak Prize in poetry from the University of Wisconsin Press. His poems have appeared in *Mid-American Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Third Coast*, and *Hayden's Ferry Review*, among other journals. Snider is currently a Wallace Stegner Fellow in poetry at Stanford University. He lives in San Francisco.

An Idaho native, Stephanie Reents holds degrees from Amherst College, Oxford University, and University of Arizona, and was recently a Wallace Stegner Fellow in fiction at Stanford University. A number of her stories are forthcoming in literary magazines such as *Epoch* and *Gulf Coast*.

The Bernal Yoga Studio is located at 461 Cortland Avenue. The reading begins promptly at 7 p.m. A small donation at the door is welcomed.

For more information, visit [www.bernal yoga.com](http://www.bernal yoga.com) or e-mail David Roderick at [droderick@gmail.com](mailto:droderick@gmail.com)

## MUSIC ON THE HILL

On Sunday, November 21, the San Francisco Guitar Quartet returns to Music on the Hill in a concert of music by Phillip Houghton, Patrick Francis, J.S. Bach, and Patrick Roux. Since 1997, the SFGQ has distinguished itself as a cutting-edge chamber ensemble. The quartet has performed for the San Francisco Omni Series, at the Freight and Salvage in Berkeley, and has made many radio appearances including KPFA, KUSF, and *West Coast Live*.

The concert will be held at St. Kevin's Church, 704 Cortland Avenue, at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30.) The church is wheelchair-accessible, and the 24 Divisadero bus stops in front of the venue. Tickets cost \$12 (\$7 for seniors and students) from 820-1429 or e-mail [mothmuse@aol.com](mailto:mothmuse@aol.com). For more details, visit [www.musiconthehill.org](http://www.musiconthehill.org).

Music on the Hill is a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting high-quality chamber music for Bernal residents. The concerts this season were made possible by the generous support from Bernal Heights merchants including Martha and Brothers Coffee, Good Life Grocery, Heartfelt, Bernal Beast, Brown Bear Realty, Reliable Grocery, The Cutting Edge, Briar Rose, and Palatino. Special thanks to Kristin Hofso and Bernal Hill Realty for honoring us with its generous Bernal Hill Award.



The SF Guitar Quartet plays at St. Kevin's on November 21.

## FLOORCRAFT

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Floorcraft on Bayshore Boulevard is working to help raise awareness for the fight against breast cancer.

The store is selling beautiful custom-designed welcome mats emblazoned with a pink ribbon, the internationally recognized symbol for breast cancer awareness.

The mats come in three different designs and cost \$19.99 each; 100% of the proceeds go directly to the American Cancer Society, specifically for breast cancer research.

For more information, visit the store at 470 Bayshore or call 824-4056.

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# HOLLY PARK UPDATE



## FUN IN THE PARK

Photos by Mike Rothstein

Five hundred pieces of cake were served on Saturday, September 18, at the dedication event celebrating Holly Park's renovation. The event, which was sponsored by the Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Parks Trust, and Friends of Holly Park, drew people

Families wait in line for balloon hats by Bernal resident Chloe the Clown.

grass until after the repairs are made and the areas are reseeded.

**Q:** Do any of the facilities in Holly Park require a use permit?

**A:** All facilities except the ball field are available on a first-come first-served basis. The ball field can be reserved by calling Permits and Reservations at 831-5500.

**Q:** When will the bathrooms be renovated? What hours will they be open for use?

**A:** A renovation date was unavailable at press time. Generally, the restrooms are open from around 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays. If a permitted event or athletic activity is taking place on Saturday or Sunday, arrangements can be made to have the restrooms opened by notifying the reservations desk when the permit is issued.



This cake, donated by Safeway, says it all!

from North and South Bernal, the nearby Mission neighborhoods, and St. Mary's Park. The new playground was the star attraction, a clown entertained, music was provided by the Old G's and Edna Love, and the canine crowd got treats as did the children. By all accounts, a good time was had by all. Donations of time, money, and goods from many Bernal businesses and residents made this truly a community celebration.

## Q&A

**Q:** Will the grass that disappeared during construction be restored?

**A:** Yes. The contractor accidentally damaged some of the irrigation equipment so areas of the park weren't watered, including newly seeded



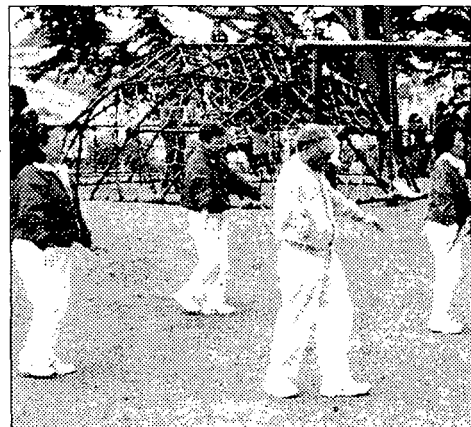
Principal Eve Cheung of Junipero Serra School described how the school will use the park facilities for student enrichment programs.

**Q:** What is the maintenance schedule for the park?

**A:** The gardener, whose main function is the care and maintenance of the landscape, is currently assigned to Holly Park about thirty hours a week. There will be partial custodial service two days a week; otherwise, the gardener's efforts are diverted from landscape maintenance to custodial duties.

**Q:** Is there a volunteer organization to help with the upkeep of the park?

**A:** Absolutely! A volunteer group is being formed. E-mail Friends of Holly Park (hollyparkfriends@yahoo.com) if you are interested in organizing and/or participating. ■



The Yuan Ji Dancers of San Francisco perform tai chi.

areas, trees, and shrubs. The problem is being corrected, but the areas currently without irrigation will not have

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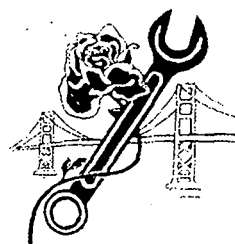
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# BERNAL HAPPENINGS

## LIBRARY NEWS

### LIBRARY RENOVATION MEETING

Join us on Wednesday, October 6 at 7 p.m. as we continue to plan for the renovation of the library. Thanks to the bond measure passed in November 2000, the branch will become larger, seismically safe, technologically and mechanically updated, and fully accessible.

At our first community meeting in August, we discussed expanding and moving the Children's Area downstairs next to a new program room, creating a designated Teen Area upstairs, and building an addition onto the Andover side of the building. Plans also include an elevator, a staircase, new restrooms, and more functional staff space. The building's original architecture will be respected and many historic features restored.

Community members stressed the important connection between the playground and the library and the need for a large Children's Area as well as a flexible program room, discussed the many uses of the library, and suggested creative ways to design the outside areas.

On October 6, the architects will present another plan which incorporates the community and staff's comments and priorities.

The library is scheduled to close for construction in the fall of 2005, after the Excelsior branch reopens. During this time, library services will be provided by a neighborhood bookmobile, by

increasing hours at nearby branches, and by holding programs at local schools and community centers.

For more information, visit [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org) or call Mindy Linetzky at the Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP) at 557-4354.

### LIBRARY HOURS MEETING

Come to the public hearing about the library's hours on Saturday, October 16, at noon, at the Bernal Heights Recreation Center (directly behind the library at 300 Moultrie St.). We will discuss the results of the survey and which open hours best serve the needs of the Bernal Heights community. At the conclusion of the hearings, the Library Commission will establish library service hours for the five-year period beginning January 2005.

### WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY

Longtime library worker Carol O'Quin has announced her retirement. Join us on Saturday, November 13, to wish her good luck and farewell. October brings us a new children's librarian when Jasmin Lawson joins our staff! Jasmin has worked at the Mission Branch Children's Room and the Potrero Branch. Stop by this month and say hola to Jasmin and adios to Carol!

### FIESTA

Visit our booth to check out our renovation plans, meet our new children's librarian, and peruse historical photos. Thanks to the good people at Good Life Grocery, the historical photo display, designed by

Valerie Reichert, will be on view again. The Branch Bookmobile will also make its debut Bernal appearance.

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Colibri will perform music from South America on Wednesday, October 27 at 4 p.m., for all ages.

Word for Word will perform *The Master-Maid: As Retold by Joseph Jacobs* on Wednesday, November 3 at 4 p.m., for children of all ages.

### ONGOING PROGRAMS

Preschool Storytime: Thursdays, 11 a.m. [except for November 11 & 25]

Origami Club: Saturdays October 2 and November 6 at 2:00 p.m.; all ages are welcome.

Crafts with Sophie: Wednesdays October 13 and November 10 at 4 p.m. For children of all ages.

Book Club will meet to discuss *The Battle for God* by Karen Armstrong or *Terror in the Mind of God* by Mark Juergensmeyer on Thursday, October 28 at 4 p.m. and *Elizabeth Costello* by J.M. Coetzee on Thursday, November 18 at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Carol: *1776* (video).

Dominic: *Luna* by Julie Anne Peters.

Kristie: *I Know This Much Is True* by Wally Lamb.

Lisa: *Truth and Beauty* by Ann Patchett and *Autobiography of a Face* by Lucy Grealy.

Marianne: *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame.

Sylvie: *The Pearl Diver* by Jeff Talarigo and *Embers* by Sándor Márai.

All programs at the library are free and sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Gabriel Sharing Fund. Call 355-2810 for more information.

### EARTHQUAKE SHACKS

Earthquake cottages, or shacks, will be the program subject of the October 20 meeting of Bernal Heights Preservation. A presentation by the doyenne of cottages, Jane Cryan, and West of Twin Peaks' really useful Woody

LaBounty will explore the history, identification, and preservation of the shacks.

Precita Park and Holly Park were sites of refugee camps where emergency shelters were constructed for housing after the 1906 earthquake and fire. Many of these cottages were later moved to vacant lots. There are at least three sites remaining in Bernal with shacks.

Bernal residents are invited to learn about the distinguishing characteristics and how to identify our earthquake shacks. Bring photos, old or new. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, 20 October at the Bernal Heights Library on Cortland. For more information, visit [www.bernalheightspreservation.org](http://www.bernalheightspreservation.org) or call Gail Sansbury at 824-2659.

Maintenance

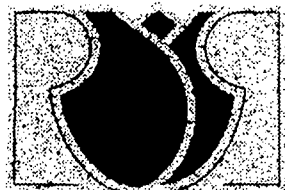
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# BERNAL HAPPENINGS

## ARTISTS' OPEN STUDIOS

Artists throughout San Francisco participate in Open Studios throughout October, with a different area of the city opening its doors each weekend. BY CAROL FANNING Bernal Heights, along with the Castro, Duboce, Mission, Eureka Valley, Excelsior, and Diamond Heights are featured during the second weekend, October 9 and 10. Studios are open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



Windblown at Holly Park: (L-R) Artists Beryl Landau, Tom Fanning, Marie-Pierre De Francesco, Jim Gleeson, Joan Miro, Mario Giordano, and Pauline Crowther Scott.

Artists on the hill participating this year are Donna Blow (jewelry); Sophia Bowart (photography); Pauline Crowther Scott (painting, mixed media); Marie-Pierre De Francesco (fabric art); Tom Fanning (painting); Mario Giordano (photography); James Gleeson (painting, drawing, prints); Tiffany Graham (paint-

ing, sculpture, drawing); Beryl Landau (painting); Joan Miro (drawing, print-making); and Carmen Wolf (painting).

There will be an exhibition of these artists' work in the windows of the Good Life Grocery in the week leading up to the Open Studios. Catalogues with samples and maps will be available at Good Life, Progressive Grounds, and Red Hill Books.

There will be signs posted with directions to the studios, homes, and garages of the artists who welcome you to see and buy their work. Look for signs, balloons, and other invitations. It's a terrific opportunity to add to your personal art collection while meeting the artists in their working environment. Children are welcome to attend with their parents, and light refreshments are often offered by the artists to make you feel welcome.

## RHYTHM AND MOTION

On Moultrie Street behind the library is a hidden treasure: Bernal Heights Gym. Among its frequent users are hardcore pickup basketball players, kids of the neighborhood youth programs, and the aficionados of Rhythm and Motion's Fusion Rhythms Workout. R&M has been part of the neighborhood for nearly a decade, and locals come for classes that offer the joy of movement tied to a contagious dose of energy.

Rhythm and Motion was founded in 1979 by Bernal Heights resident and cho-

reographer Consuelo Faust, who wanted to give San Franciscans a spirited and accessible panoply of dance and movement forms for beginners and experienced dancers alike. In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the center invites dance lovers to its Gala Anniversary Performance on Friday, October 8 at the Herbst Theater (8 p.m., \$25-\$35. 392-4400 or [www.city-boxoffice.com](http://www.city-boxoffice.com)) The concert will feature choreography and performances by some of R&M's cutting-edge, world-renowned instructors, as well as performers and choreographers of the uniquely American dance idioms of jazz, hip-hop jazz, rhythm tap, roots modern, and modern jazz.

Come to the free 25th Birthday Party and Open House held at the Rhythm and Motion Dance Center (1133 Mission St.) on Sunday, November 7 (noon-5 p.m.). You can also meet with R&M dance ambassadors at their booth at Fiesta on the Hill. Classes take place Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m., and Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Info: 621-0643 or [www.rhythmandmotion.com](http://www.rhythmandmotion.com)

## NATIVE GRASSLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

Join Barbara and Roland Pitschel of the Natural Areas Program and help clean up Bernal Hill this fall. The next work parties will be at 11 a.m. on Sunday, October 19 and Sunday, November 21. Help to control invasive exotic plants, maintain restoration areas, enjoy the autumn dor-

mant season, pick up trash, and enjoy a day on the hill. Info: 282-5066 or e-mail [bpandrp@peoplepc.com](mailto:bpandrp@peoplepc.com)

## BERNAL CUT CLEAN TEAM EVENT

As part of the Clean Team Coalition's mission to "clean and green" the city, the Bernal Cut Association, the Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Pre-Trial Diversion Program joined forces on Saturday, September 25 to beautify the pedestrian pathway at the top of San Jose Avenue. City staff and volunteers deweeded the area along the pathway from Mission to Highland, and placed wood chips along the path, while DPW crews continued to remove large illegally dumped items from the steep hill. The neighbors' hope is that the beautified area will deter illegal dumping and will enable invested residents to plant flowers and trees on that stretch of the pathway, as was accomplished between Highland and Richland.

The Bernal Cut Association started as a group of avid gardeners who continue to maintain the Park Street Garden. Over time, they realized that together they could advocate for solutions to the area's major quality of life issues. With DPW's encouragement, the neighbors recruited more than fifty residents and renamed themselves the Bernal Cut Association.

For more info: [www.sfcleancity.com](http://www.sfcleancity.com)

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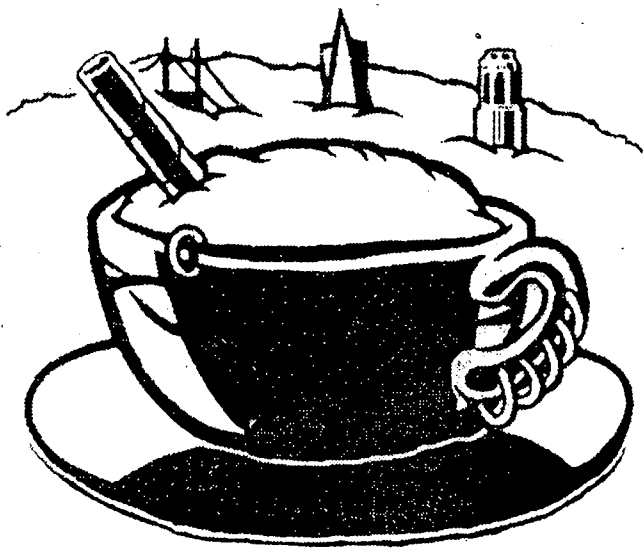
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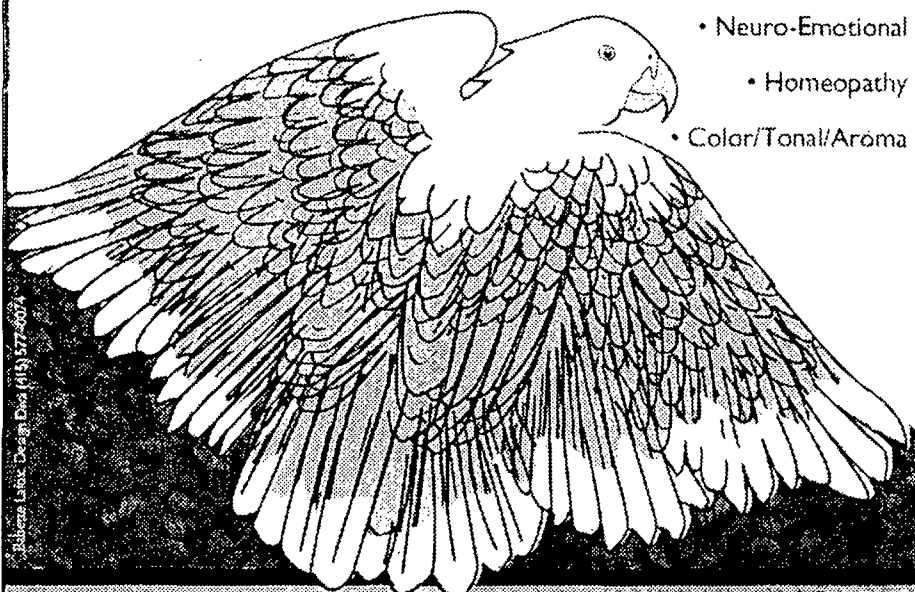


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## MORE BERNAL NEWS

### OUTDOOR CINEMA SUMMER SERIES

Some 1,200 Bernal residents and film aficionados attended the first annual Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema series over three Saturday evenings in nearby neighborhood parks.

Produced by an ad-hoc group of artists and local film supporters, three nights of free screenings happened under the stars, each with a different line-up, setting, and climate. Filmgoers experienced the late-August fog and wind on the blacktop of Bernal Playground, the beautiful, warm Labor Day weather in Precita Park, and arctic winds at the top of Holly Park.

A total of fifteen titles were shown, including animation, shorts, experimental, documentary, narrative, and children's films, all of which had local filmmakers involved in some aspect of the production. The local filmmakers being showcased were invited to meet



Approximately 120 Bernal neighbors gathered in Precita Park on September 9 to silently mourn the tragic loss of 1,000 Americans (and many, many more Iraqis) killed during the war and occupation of Iraq. More than 1,070 candlelight vigils occurred throughout the country that evening, coordinated by a coalition of organizations including MoveOn.org.

with filmgoers at nearby receptions held prior to each screening at Geranium Restaurant, Charlie's Café, and Progressive Grounds.

Reaction to the first annual series was overwhelmingly positive. Comments ranged from "Thanks for this fantastic event!" to "What a wonderful way to get neighbors together."

Suggestions are being solicited for next season's series through an online survey and Web site comments: add your thoughts online at [www.bhoutdoorcine.org](http://www.bhoutdoorcine.org).

The Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema was made possible through the generous sponsorship of Good Life Grocery, Coldwell Banker — the Shagley Team, partnership with the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and the support of El Rio, Cortland Avenue Merchants Association, Skip's Tavern, First American Title Company, Rainbow Grocery, Pacific Union and Renee Saucedo for Supervisor; and with contributions from advertisers, partner organizations, donors, and volunteers. ■



Bundled up film lovers picnic while they wait for the Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema screening to begin in Bernal Playground.

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## MISSION IN THE MARSH

Catch some great one-person shows at a local theater – or take part yourself.

Last month, I performed a 35-minute biographical monologue in front of about 85 people, and it would not have been possible if it weren't for the Marsh, a small theater in the Mission that supports new, unusual artists of all kinds. My

BY  
MAIYAH  
HIRANO

teacher and director was David Ford, who is known in certain circles as the best teacher and director for

one-person shows in San Francisco. I believe it, because he is the best teacher I have ever had in anything.

David Ford has created a sanctuary in his classroom that is compassionate, humble, and so deep that you're just forced to go there, down to that stuff that you would normally avoid in life. And I have him to thank for gently making me go there and helping me to do this wonderful thing: to share my story with others and touch them in the process.

I tell this to anyone who can stand to listen to my long-ass speech about how I came to be a writer and performer of monologues ... how it is almost inconceivable to most of my old family and neighborhood friends (I grew up in Bernal Heights) that I am actually, physically doing this.

My piece, *Tell My Own Story*, was about my relationship with a blind man for nine years, a guardian angel-type mentor who comes into our lives, and a parrot. Yes, a parrot. I threw him in at the end because I was doing a housesit and fell in love with this Eclectus parrot that is so damn smart, you wouldn't believe.

Most of my life I was very quiet and shy. Now, at 35, I've found my second wind. Well, I should say my first wind, because I never thought I would be doing this. I thought



Dan Hoyle, man of many roles.

I was going to end up being a graphic designer or an editor for some small, quiet publishing house in the City. I had no idea my life could be this good.

Not to say I don't have any major challenges and stumbling blocks to contend with; I do. My work in the theater helps me and nourishes me through it all. If I feel down, frustrated, confused, I do my writing and performing and I'm three hundred times better.

My latest piece, which I just performed September 20 at the Marsh, is along the same lines, but I've added a healer/sex worker who does a sex worker rap, and also a channeller of alien beings. It was a lot of fun. I will perform *The Further Adventures of June...Healer/Sex Worker, the Blind Astrologer ... and the Parrot* at the **Monday Night Marsh** within the next month or two. The Monday Night Marsh is an open mike for monologists and performance artists of many kinds. The subject matter ranges from stand-up style to personal transformation, with lots of funky stuff in between.

There's also a supercool, amazing show going on at the Marsh right now. Besides *Not a Genuine Black Man*, which has been extended five times and has had an enormously great response (plus its star, Brian

Copeland, just got a contract to do an HBO series based on it), there's Dan Hoyle's *Circumnavigator*, which is extended through October.

Let me tell you, you *have* to see it. Dan Hoyle, who happens to be the son of Geoff Hoyle, the famous clown from Pickle Family Circus and one-man-show pro, is absolutely amazing as a character actor. My favorite is Tong, the gay Vietnamese interpreter he interviewed on his around-the-world trip funded by his *Circumnavigator* grant, awarded to him at Northwestern. Hoyle uses the phrase "journalistic theater" in his piece, and that's what it is, but you leave the show absolutely amazed at his impressions. He shows the audience the poor conditions of sweatshops and the politics of globalization through his highly crafted, very specific characterizations. It's funny, very intelligent, warm, and touching. I've seen it six times, and it gets better every time I see it.

I asked Dan a few questions.

**MH:** So, what do you want to be when you grow up?

**DH:** I want to influence people to do the right thing ... to not be narrow-minded and self-interested. (His first response was, "I am grown up!")

**MH:** What is your goal in the next three years?

**DH:** To never have a real job... get grants ... travel and create my work in a way where people can really understand it and talk about it.

**MH:** Who are your favorite one-person performers?

**DH:** Danny Hoch, who does *Jails, Hospitals and Hip Hop*, and Anna Deavere Smith, who also does journalistic theater.

**MH:** What's the most important thing you

learned while writing and performing *Circumnavigator*?

**DH:** That people everywhere have the same hunger for truth that I do, but they're not all as shameless and fearless about it as I am.

**MH:** You're going to Nigeria for a whole year in January on a Fulbright scholarship to research oil politics for your next piece. Are you going to have a little fun while you're there?

**DH:** Sure, but it's dangerous.

**MH:** What are you worried might happen?

**DH:** They'll kill you if they think you're an oil executive.

**MH:** (Laughs) Don't worry about that. [We're friends, see...]

**MH:** Your older brother, Jonah, did a two-man piece with Lorenzo Puzzone ...

**DH:** Yeah, it was called *Humor Abuse*. It was about living with clowns as fathers.

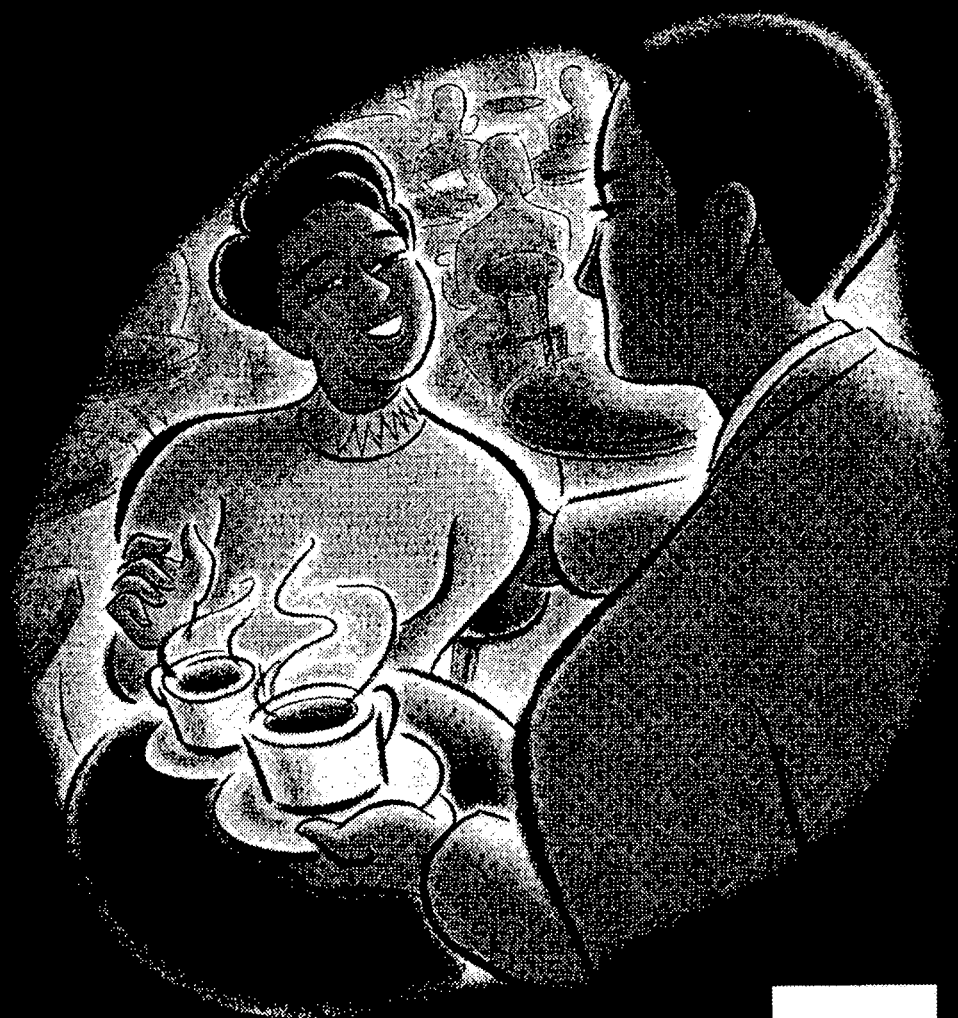
**MH:** What kind of abuse did you all get?

**DH:** You know ... being put in trunks, subjected to unfunny jokes and large red noses ...

**MH:** Well, thank you for taking time out of your busy day. I'll let you get back to playing with your football on the beach.

**DH:** You're welcome. A guy's gotta relax, sometimes ... Thanks for the interview. Are you gonna put in the part about killing oil executives?

Dan Hoyle's *Circumnavigator* and Brian Copeland's *Not a Genuine Black Man* run through the end of October, and *The Monday Night Marsh* is most Mondays. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. (at 22nd). Info: [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org) or 826-5750.



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# MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

**David Holmes wants you to see things photorealistically.**

When David Holmes moved to Bernal Heights three years ago, he had no idea his life was about to make an abrupt change. He had worked for almost twenty

**BY VICKY WALKER** years as an advertising art director, but when the dot-com bubble burst, he found himself suddenly unemployed. His solution? Switch to painting. At first this seemed risky, since the rocky economy meant fewer people with cash to spend on art, but the gamble has paid off: In just two short years he has gained recognition in the demanding field of painting known as photorealism. "Realism is a classic art style which is now coming back into vogue," he says. "It's based on traditional skills of drawing and painting in a highly representational manner."

A David Holmes painting begins with a digital camera, with which he captures a moment in the ever-changing life of the city. He then transfers it to canvas, using a graphite rubbing technique to create a blueprint of the image to serve as his guide. He then matches the colors and outlines of the original photograph exactly, using just a brush and acrylic paints. Each painting takes around three months to complete because of the painstaking detail required to make it look so realistic, but he stresses that the process is a lot of fun, too.

"My paintings are almost like ads for places that are now gone," he says -- the one remaining Doggie Diner head still on



**David Holmes with one of his paintings, Columbus Avenue.**

a restaurant, for example, or the 17 Reasons Why sign that once stood atop Thrift Town in the Mission. "I'm not anti-progress, but I think that these are important cultural icons that should be protected and preserved. Whenever one is lost to development it destroys a part of the city's unique personality." The most popular of his works so far is Mission Street (2002), which perfectly encapsulates the Mission bustle, with its busy sidewalks and tilted signs and awnings, and the 17 Reasons sign almost floating in the sky, on its way to becoming a ghost. "By putting people in my paintings and making them so natural-looking, there's a sense of energy. You could step into the painting and walk

down the street."

David draws inspiration from the city around him. "Everywhere you look is a great picture waiting to be captured," he says. He is adamant, however, about staying away from tourist landmarks: "I prefer the gritty side of the city that is really only seen by people who live here." One of his main influences is Robert Bechtle, a Potrero Hill resident and pioneer in the photorealistic movement in the 1960s: "His portrayal of life in San Francisco had a big impact on me. His precision and technical ability are just phenomenal."

Since each painting takes so long to complete, David only recently accumulated enough pieces to begin showing in galleries. His work was recently part of a group show at the Newmark Gallery in

Union Square (and is still viewable there). He also has a painting currently on display at the Blue Room Gallery at 2331 Mission Street. "I'm really excited about my next show, which will be in New York this December," he says. "It's my first New York exhibition, and hopefully will open some doors on the east coast."

"I love living and working in Bernal Heights," he says. "There is a nice creative energy here. It's also fun to discover how many other talented artists live here. I'm constantly meeting new people." When he isn't painting, you can often find David playing with his children (Nicolas, three, and Maya, eighteen months) at the Cortland Playground. "During the day, I'm Mr. Mom," he says. "My wife, Katia, has a steady job, which helps smooth out the ups and downs of an artist's income."

He also has his sights set on Cortland Street and its environs, so don't be surprised if you end up in one of his pieces. In fact, a woman read an article in the *SF Chronicle* about his paintings and recognized her husband as one of his subjects (the couple later bought the painting). "I keep waiting for someone to come up and say, 'Hey, that's me!'" he laughs. "I hope they take it as a compliment." ■

To learn more about David's work, visit [www.holmespaint.com](http://www.holmespaint.com) to view the paintings and read the stories behind them, or to purchase originals, commissioned works, or high-quality giclée prints.

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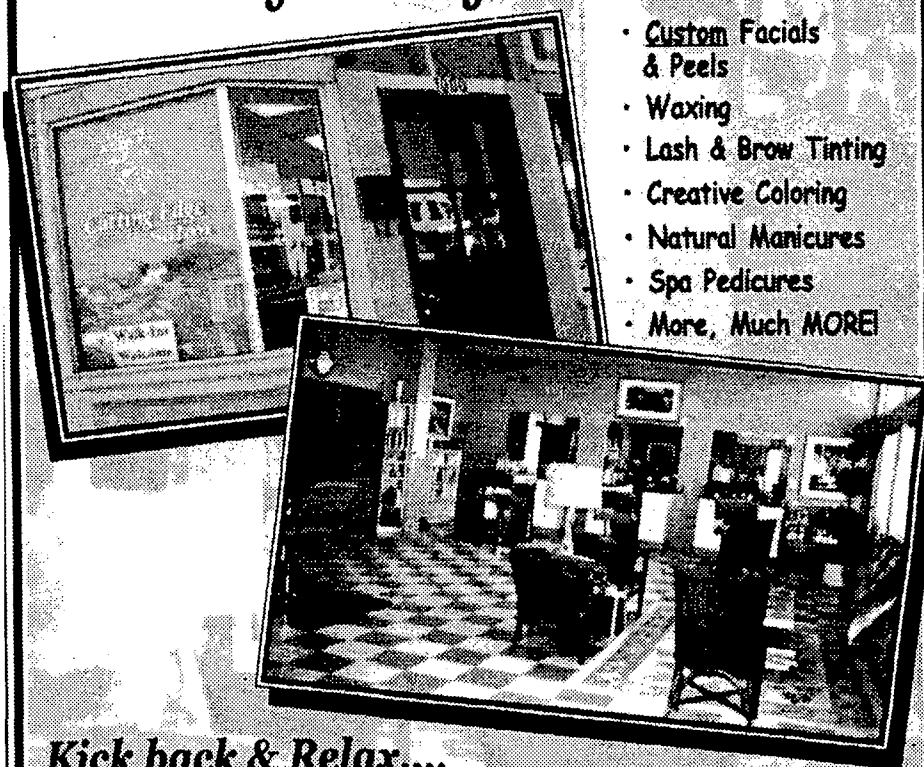
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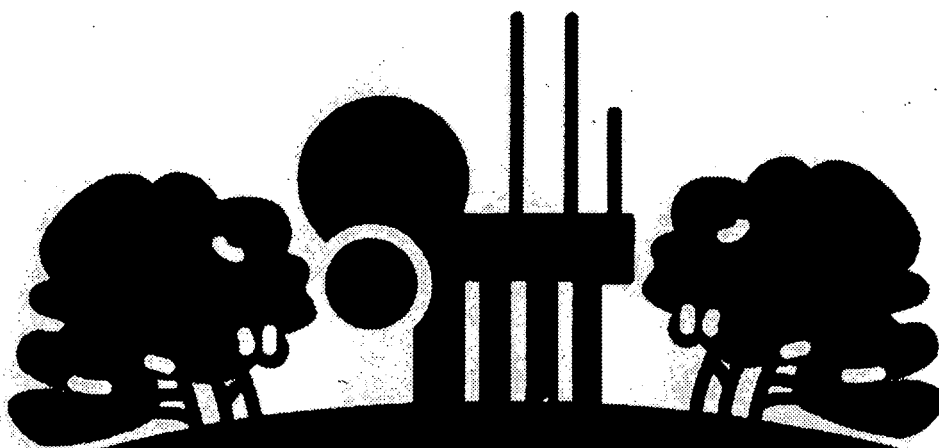
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